

**Minutes of the 6 February 2006 Regular Meeting of the
Park and Recreation Committee of the RTM**

Committee members present:

Pat D'Arinzo	Michele De Rocco
Michele Gartland	Barry Gidseg
Andrews Hunter	Cheryl Russell
Jennifer Sommer	Gary Swenson
William Tamme	Penne Weicker

Committee members absent:

Stephen Alliegro	David Maloof
Lee Pratt	

Attending by invitation:

Wayne Fox, Town Counsel
Lt. Thomas Krois, Darien Police Department
Robert Marchesi, Darien Park and Recreation Commission
Douglas Milne, Darien Park and Recreation Commission
Joseph Warren, RTM, Chair TGS&A Committee

Having established a quorum was present Mr. D'Arinzo, as acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 740p in room 119 of the Darien Town Hall.

Minutes on the committee's 9 January 2006 meeting were submitted for approval. Mr. Tamme moved the minutes be amended to reflect Ms. Weicker's attendance, not absence, at that meeting. The amended minutes were approved.

Ms. Russell assumed the duties of Chair.

The Committee turned its attention to TGS&S's proposal to amend Sec. 33 of the Town Code of Ordinances.

Mr. Gidseg questioned whether the RTM had the authority to delegate rule making and fine setting to other, appointed town bodies. Mr. Fox responded that the Town Charter does allow such delegation and that such authority is commonly delegated.

Ms. Russell ask Lt. Krois, who was attending in Chief Lovello's place, what thoughts the police department had on the proposed amendment

Lt. Krois confirmed the police can and do enforce commission propagated rules and regulations as well as town ordinances, and that from the police department's perspective, it made little difference if conduct and activities in

the town's parks were governed by P&R Commission rules and regulations, or by RTM ratified town ordinances. He went on to say that in either event the police department was strongly in favor of i) changes to or new rules/ordinances having an effective date in the month of October following the date of their enactment, and ii) individual rules /ordinances having specific fines attached to them so that the department's officers would no longer be open to charges of unequal treatment.

The Committee, in excusing him, thanked Lt. Krois for his attendance and input.

The Committee and Messrs. Marchesi and Milne then entered into a discussion of the implications of the proposed amendment. The discussion focused on the need for town government to function efficiently and the need for Charter-mandated checks and balances to be preserved. In particular, the ability of the Committee to carry out its fundamental responsibility to oversee the Park and Recreation Commission following passage of the amendment was discussed.

Ms. Russell delayed a vote on the proposed amendment until the P&R Commission is able to consider and give its views on the amendment to the Committee.

Ms. Russell then presented the Chair's report. Points covered:

- At it's last meeting the P&R Commission raised park and recreation facility usage fees \$5.00 across the board.
- The P&R Commission did not adopt the wording change proposed by the Committee to the \$30,000 capital budget item regarding the Diller Property because the Commission had already submitted the budget to the Board of Selectmen.
- The \$500,000 in the Capital Budget allocated to the implementation of phase 1 of the Weed Beach Master Plan was likely to be significantly reduced.
- A public hearing on the new Town Master Plan is scheduled for 800p on 14 February. Committee members are urged to attend.
- A P&R Commission meeting to discuss the Weed Beach Master plan is scheduled for 15 February. Committee members are urged to attend.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 900p.

/signed/ William J. Tamme,
Clerk